NATIONAL CONGRESS BULLETIN

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Dear Fellow Workers:

IT IS a privilege to greet you and to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Christmas Day has a special significance for parent-teacher members this year. Our response to its spiritual challenge is quicker and deeper than ever before.

Although the Day will find us far from "peace on earth," there is nothing to prevent us from holding in our hearts the rest of the song of the herald angels: "Good Will Toward Men." Above everything else, we must help our children to achieve this good will.

And to this end we must offer them a steadfast example. Our unit projects can be directed toward helping all children attain a happier life. As cooperating parents and teachers, we can exert the power of unified action not alone in behalf of our children but for the benefit of all children everywhere. We can help to create community appreciation of the value of social services in the fields of health, education, recreation — everything that brings to our neighbors the freedoms we advocate for the world. All this can be done as a practical, everyday expression of the "good will toward men" on which tomorrow's world must be founded. Our children will take their cue from us.

Parent-teacher associations can represent through all the year the spirit and meaning of Christmas Day. May not this representation, indeed, be our special responsibility to Him whose birth we commemorate?

Faithfully yours,

Virginia Klebs

President
National Congress of Parents and Teachers

AN ALL-YEAR-ROUND TASK

OBSERVE not one but 365 Child Labor Days in 1943! Such is the recommendation of the National Child Labor Committee to parent-teacher associations, clubs, schools, and churches.

The Committee, confronted by increasing calls for help, has decided to devote all its energies and funds for the duration of the war to meeting particular child labor needs, whenever and wherever they arise. It will not promote observance of a special Child Labor Day in 1943.

The National Child Labor Committee stands ready, as always, to advise organizations about child labor problems in their particular localities and to send literature, exhibit materials, and program suggestions to interested groups.

Protection of children is a year-round task today, more than ever before, as the demands for war manpower bring proposals to suspend child labor laws "for the duration." Older boys and girls, under proper safeguards, can take an active part in the war production program with benefit to themselves. But school remains the primary job for children under sixteen years of age.

Work outside of school hours, if undertaken by younger children, must be carefully limited both as to the type of work and the hours of work.

RESPONSIBILITY AND THE P. T. A.

TO BE a member of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers has always been an honor and a privilege, for there is no higher honor and no greater privilege than offering service to the nation's youth. Today, however, membership in the parent-teacher association is something more — it is proof positive of enlightened citizenship.

For is it not the enlightened and intelligent citizen who, even in the midst of war and war's alarms, keeps steadfast watch over the enduring values that hold the nation to her onward course through it all? Responsibility, that foremost need of a world in turmoil, is by this sign made evident: that regular duties and the wholesome daily round are neither neglected nor forgotten, even though many new and heavy tasks must be added.

And responsibility remains, above everything else, the mark of the enlightened citizen. The parent-teacher association, which fosters and strengthens citizen responsibility by insisting continually upon the necessity of maintaining the home front whatever happens, is performing a service to America that can never be forgotten, a service for which there is no adequate substitute. Membership in its ranks is an avowal of responsibility accepted and a promise of responsibility well fulfilled.

Nor is this a promise without foundation. Parent-teacher groups from coast to coast have given abundant evidence of their readiness and their ability to serve their country in her hour of need. The organization maintains a war program second to none in quality, diversity, scope, or intensiveness. There is a place in this program for every talent and for every skill. The recent stupendous increase in membership is proof that all these facts are being recognized and acted upon by men and women all over America.

That this recognition will continue to spread is certain. We have given a good account of ourselves. Let us continue to strive for greater and greater numbers, that greater and greater things may be accomplished.

GASOLINE *Rationing* AND EDUCATION

THE position of students and teachers in relation to the Mileage Rationing Program has been clarified in a letter received by Mrs. William Kletzer, president, National Congress of Parents and Teachers, from John R. Richards, chief, Gasoline Rationing Branch, Office of Price Administration. Mr. Richards states that the problem of school transportation was one of the first considerations in the planning of the program.

School Buses

"School buses come within the jurisdiction of the Office of Defense Transportation; . . . local War Price and Rationing Boards will allot to them the gasoline gallonage stipulated on Certificates of War Necessity issued by that agency.

Passenger Cars

"Under the Regulations for the national program, with a few administrative exceptions, a basic ration will be issued for use with a registered passenger automobile." The basic ration in the East, because of the critical petroleum supply situation, is only 180 miles a month; in the rest of the nation, it is 240 miles. Of the latter, "150 are deemed available for occupational driving, and 90 . . . for home necessity use, such as travel to and from school.

"Inasmuch as we have defined 'occupation' to include the pursuit of a regular and recognized course of study, many students are eligible for supplemental rations in the form of the 'B' book which provides up to 320 miles of driving a month, in addition to the 150 miles in the 'A' book which must be counted for occupational use. In order to qualify for the 'B' ration, students will have to make bona fide ride-sharing arrangements with three or more persons in pursuit of their occupations, or demonstrate that it is impossible to do so and that alternative means of transportation are not adequate. Of course, under the same conditions, teachers, school employees, and school officials are eligible for this supplemental 'B' ration.

"Furthermore, preferred mileage (occupational mileage in excess of 470 miles a month) may be granted to persons who regularly transport four or more pupils, students, teachers, or school employees to or from a regular place of study, if alternative means of transportation are not available. Moreover, preferred mileage, the 'C' ration, may be issued to school teachers or school officials for the performance of their duties which require regular travel to more than one recognized educational institution, if the usual ride-sharing and alternative means tests are met. . . .

Ride-Sharing Plans

"We suggest that it is possible for your parent-teacher associations to form ride-sharing clubs by means of which parents in particular neighborhoods would take turns in driving groups of five or six children to and from school. . . . The ride-sharing plan might very well alleviate transport difficulties in suburban and rural areas. . . .

"We believe that the program will prevent extreme hardship from being visited upon the young, and we hope that inconvenience will be accepted by their elders as the inexorable consequence of total war. The cooperation of your organization will be a very powerful aid in making these mandatory war measures effective."

"HIDDEN HUNGER"

"HIDDEN HUNGER," official film of the National Nutrition Program, Federal Security Agency, which was announced in the March *Bulletin*, is now available for non-theatrical showings in 16 mm. size with sound track. A reel of straight nutrition material has been added to the educational version of the film. The accompanying *Teachers' Nutrition Manual and Quiz*, together with the three-reel movie, whose running time is thirty minutes, can be used as the basis for a brief nutrition course or as supplementary material for one.

Parent-teacher associations and other educational or civic organizations may borrow the educational film free of charge, except for transportation costs.

LIMIT MEAT CONSUMPTION

VOLUNTARY limitation of consumption of meat is an important way of waging war on the home front. The War Production Board estimates that the fair share of meat for each adult or adolescent of normal meat-eating habits, after army, navy, and lend lease requirements have been met, is two and one half pounds per week. To insure that women in war industries, late shoppers, and late diners-out get their shares, we must have voluntary, patriotic limitation of meat consumption now.

TEST YOUR MORALE

WE MUST construct an American morale that will make the loyalties of the dictatorships look pale and insipid by comparison!" So declares William G. Carr, secretary of the Educational Policies Commission and assistant director of the National Education Association, in the December issue of the *National Parent-Teacher*. Dr. Carr's article, "How's Your Morale?" is one of the most substantial presentations on this highly important topic to come before the reading public to date. Summarizing the many elements that must be fused to make good national morale, Dr. Carr achieves what is desirable above all things in an article directed principally to parent-teacher workers; namely, a presentation packed with worth-while material for discussion. Every parent-teacher unit in the land might well make this article the subject of a special meeting, with an address on morale in general, and use Dr. Carr's checklist as a test for the audience then and there.

Check List for Morale

Score four points for each question that you can always honestly answer in the affirmative. Score three points for each question that you can answer in the affirmative most of the time; two points for half of the time; one point for occasionally. The perfect score is sixty points.

DO YOU

___ 1. Guard your health by proper diet, enough sleep, and sensible living?
___ 2. Perform each day some "extra" work that is useful in the war effort?
___ 3. Do your ordinary work extraordinarily well, and take pride in it?
___ 4. Face the facts, no matter how unpleasant?
___ 5. Look forward with hope and determination to the years of peace?
___ 6. Recognize that moral values are higher than selfish interests?
___ 7. Spend at least a little time each day in healthful recreation?
___ 8. Trust the honesty and patriotism of your associates?
___ 9. Trust the good motives and ability of your leaders?
___10. Treat all your fellow citizens as loyal comrades?
___11. Remember the values that we are fighting to preserve?
___12. Know and appreciate the history of your country?
___13. Take part thoughtfully in patriotic demonstrations?
___14. Understand the advantages of the American way of life?
___15. Support your schools, churches, libraries, and other morale-building agencies?

NATIONAL CONVENTION

The forty-seventh annual convention of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers will be held in Chicago from Tuesday, May 11 through Thursday, May 13, 1943. The Sherman Hotel has been named as headquarters for the convention.

The midweek dates were chosen in accordance with the government's request that national organizations holding conventions cooperate in relieving the heavy weekend burden on the nation's transportation system.

SONGS FOR VICTORY

IS YOUR parent-teacher association using group singing to help keep morale high during the war? Then perhaps you will be interested in having a list of songs that reveal and arouse the American spirit, for use at meetings and social affairs. Mrs. Curtis Stout, chairman, committee on Music, suggests using the following official list of "American Songs for Victory" adopted by the National Institute on Music in Wartime. Copyright owners, if any, are given in parenthesis following the titles.

The Official List

Anchors Aweigh (Robbins Music Co.); *Army Air Corps* (Carl Fischer, Inc.); *Caisson Song* (Shapiro-Bernstein Co.; *Marine's Hymn* (U.S. Marine Corps); *Semper Paratus* (Sam Fox); *Stars & Stripes Forever* (Theodore Presser Co.); *This Is the Army* (This Is the Army, Inc.); *Over There* (Leo Feist, Inc.); *Pack Up Your Troubles* (Chappell & Co.); *Keep the Home Fires Burning* (Chappell & Co.); *There's a Long, Long Trail* (M. Witmark & Sons); *Battle Hymn of the Republic; When Johnny Comes Marching Home; Go Down, Moses; Home on the Range; Sweet and Low; Let Me Call You Sweetheart* (Paull-Pioneer Music Corp., and Shapiro-Bernstein Co.); *Dixie; Yankee Doodle; Faith of Our Fathers; God of Our Fathers; O God, Our Help in Ages Past; America; America the Beautiful; Star-Spangled Banner.*

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"GET IN THE SCRAP!"

PARENT-TEACHER associations must help "Get in the Scrap" if American soldiers and sailors are to have the equipment they need. Donald M. Nelson, chairman of the War Production Board, has addressed a plea for cooperation to the National Congress, and in response Mrs. William Kletzer, national president, has sent a number of suggestions to local units concerning parent-teacher participation in the scrap drive.

Mr. Nelson's telegram read as follows:

"Salvage of urgently needed scrap materials is one of the most vital war jobs facing our nation. . . . Active participation in the school salvage program by all local units of the National Congress . . . will materially enhance its success. Will you urge all local associations and their members to offer their assistance to salvage committees and school superintendents in their states and cities to aid in collecting scrap and stepping up collection."

DONALD M. NELSON

Mrs. Kletzer, in a letter to local presidents, mentioned the strategic situation of the parent-teacher association, which represents both homes and schools, for effective assistance to the school's salvage program. As citizens and parents of fighting men, parent-teacher members have a vital interest in supplying their sons with needed equipment. As parents of school-age children, they also realize the value, to the individuals concerned and to the nation, of the children's practical contribution to war work.

The P. T. A. Can Help

Local presidents are urged to offer the assistance of their units to their school principals. In some cases, Mrs. Kletzer suggests, the scrap and other salvage campaigns might be the means of financing the P.T.A. campaigns for the care and protection of children.

Two pamphlets on the scrap drive and a scrap check list for the kitchen wall have been distributed to local units. *Get in the Scrap* (issued by the War Production Board, Washington, D. C.) gives full information on organizing the salvage program in the schools. *Scrap and How to Collect It* (issued by the American Industries Salvage Committee, New York City) lists sources of scrap, uses to which it will be put, organization of community collection drives, etc.

The "Scrap Salvage Quiz" in the November issue of the *National Parent-Teacher* provides essential information in question and answer form suitable for roll call or program presentation.

NEW WAR HANDBOOK

• A copy of the new War Handbook has been mailed to every local parent-teacher association.

BULLETIN SUBSCRIPTIONS

DO ALL your committee chairmen know about the *National Congress Bulletin?* Do they all get to read it regularly or from time to time? The whole program of the association can benefit when the Publicity, Congress Publications, National Parent-Teacher, Program, Parent Education, and Membership chairmen have an opportunity to read the *Bulletin* regularly. And chairmen of other committees will welcome the chance to see material of special interest to them as it appears in various issues throughout the year.

In many local units, the president writes the names of the chairmen listed above on the top margin of the *Bulletin* or on a slip attached to it and arranges to have the issue passed from one to another in the order suggested above.

In larger associations or ones that have organized a greater number of standing committees, an extra subscription would make it possible for the *Bulletin* to reach the leaders promptly each month. Or the extra copy could be given to the chairman of the committee most concerned with the special feature material. For example, does your Legislation chairman have the statement in the November *Bulletin* on our Legislative Program for 1942-43? Has the Hospitality chairman seen the suggestions in the October number for learning more about the duties of her office?

The subscription rate for the *National Congress Bulletin* is 20c a year for eleven issues (monthly, September-June; bimonthly, July-August). Any one may subscribe. Make check or money order payable to the National Congress of Parents and Teachers and mail to the National Congress at 600 South Michigan Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois.

HOME FUEL CONSERVATION

Fuel conservation is both a necessity and a patriotic service for one's country this winter. Householders are urged to take the following steps:

1. *Inspect and adjust heating equipment.* Clean flues, chimneys, and burners; adjust draft regulators, stokers, etc.

2. *Insulate walls and roof or attic.* Do some insulating jobs yourself; get expert assistance for others.

3. *Install storm windows and doors.* Protect the most-used and drafty rooms first.

4. *Weather strip and seal air leaks around windows and doors.* Use felt, wood, or zinc for weather stripping.

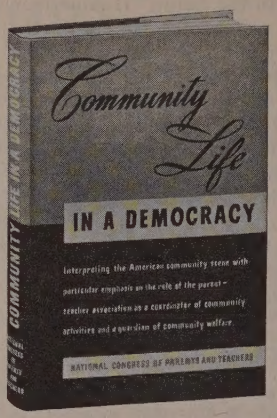
See *How to Heat Your Home with Less Fuel This Winter* (Office of Price Administration, Washington, D. C., and other government agencies) for details.

CONGRESS CONTACTS

COOPERATION with national organizations whose programs are similar to those of the National Congress constantly increases the Congress' strength and extends its fields of influence. National officers and chairmen of standing committees have represented the Congress at the meetings of the following organizations since May:

- American Library Association. Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Mrs. Harry M. Mulberry, national chairman, committee on Reading and Library Service.
- Canadian National Federation of Home and School. Calgary, Alberta. Donald W. MacKay, chairman, committee on Citizenship.
- Institute on Music in Wartime. Chicago, Illinois. Mrs. Curtis Stout, national chairman, committee on Music.
- Joint conference, American Council on Education and Rural Education Committee. Chicago, Illinois. Mrs. William Kletzer, president.
- National Advisory Committee for the WPA Nursery School Project. Chicago, Illinois. Mrs. William Kletzer, president.
- National Conference of Social Work; joint meeting with the National Committee for Mental Hygiene and the National Probation Association. New Orleans, Louisiana. Mrs. William Kletzer, president.
- National Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers. Nashville, Tennessee. Dr. Alice Sowers, vice-president.
- National Education Association. Denver, Colorado. Mrs. William Kletzer, president; Mrs. William A. Hastings, first vice-president; Howard V. Funk, second vice-president.
- National Institute on Education and the War, sponsored by the United States Office of Education Wartime Commission. Washington, D. C. Howard V. Funk, second vice-president; Mrs. P. B. Digby, vice-president; and Mrs. Emmet C. Stopher, vice-president.
- Office of Price Administration, Consumer Conference. Washington, D. C. Mrs. Paul H. Leonard, vice-president.
- Office of War Information, Bureau of Motion Pictures, conference on use of government war films by national organizations. Washington, D. C. Mrs. Emmet C. Stopher, vice-president.
- Salvage Training School, under direction of War Production Board, Conservation Division. Washington, D. C. Mrs. Emmet C. Stopher, vice-president.
- United States Office of Education Wartime Commission. Howard V. Funk, second vice-president.
- World Federation of Education Associations, Institute. Washington, D. C. Mrs. William Kletzer, president.

FOR CHRISTMAS · 1942


Community Life
IN A DEMOCRACY
Interpreting the American community scene with particular emphasis on the role of the parent-teacher association as a co-worker of community activities and a guardian of community welfare.
NATIONAL CONGRESS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS

Give P. T. A. *Publications*

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1. Community Life in a Democracy . $1

To teachers, to social workers, to P.T.A. officers—especially to former officers as a token of remembrance, and to college and high school students for reference use.

2. National Parent-Teacher Magazine $1

To parents, especially to young mothers whose husbands are in the armed forces; to school principals, and to prospective P.T.A. members.

3. Proceedings, 1942 Annual Convention $1

To presidents of state teachers' colleges, to executive officers of other teacher training institutions, and to libraries.

4. Schools for Democracy 25c

To members of boards of education and to lay leaders who will benefit by knowing more about America's public schools.

Give all four publications to school superintendents for their offices in appreciation of their untiring efforts in directing the education of children and youth during these trying times.

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600 S. MICHIGAN BOULEVARD, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

VALUE OF P. T. A. WORK RECOGNIZED

THE parent-teacher association's part in maintaining morale and fostering war activities in the home is well known to and appreciated by its members. Public recognition of this service has also been given in New Hampshire in connection with the series of five district conferences of the New Hampshire Congress of Parents and Teachers held between October 5 and 9.

Transportation is a major problem; the only way to reach some communities in the state is by car. Recognizing the value of parent-teacher work, the rationing board in Keene allowed a group of leaders sufficient gasoline for the 575-mile trip around the state to attend the district conferences. Members of the party included the state president, first vice-president, Founders Day chairman, Safety chairman, a former president, and the national representative, Mrs. Albert L. Gardner, national chairman, committee on Congress Publications.

Are you buying war bonds and stamps?

Are you helping to get in the scrap metal?